

Wisdom about friendship

1. Friendship: how far does it extend?

- *'Friends' and 'neighbours'*

2. Friendship: what should it be like?

- *Constancy and compassion 17:17, 18:24, 3:27-28,*
- *Candour and counsel 27:5-6, 9, 17*

3. Friendship: what causes it problems?

- *Money 14:20, 17:18*
- *Over-exposure 25:16-17*
- *Insensitivity 27:14, 25:20*
- *Indiscretion 17:9, 11:12*
- *Deceptiveness 26:18-19*

4. Friendship: how can it be healed?

- *Proper handling of offences 25:9, 28:13*
- *Forgiving and forgetting 17:9*

Proverbs on Friendship

- 3:27-28** Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act. Do not say to your neighbour "Come back tomorrow and I'll give it to you" – when you already have it with you.
- 11:12** Whoever derides their neighbour has no sense, but the one who has understanding holds their tongue.
- 14:20** The poor are shunned even by their neighbours, but the rich have many friends.
- 17:9** Whoever would foster love covers over an offense, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.
- 17:17** A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.
- 18:24** Someone who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.
- 20:6** Many claim to have unfailing love, but a faithful person who can find?
- 25:9** Argue your case with your neighbour directly and do not disclose another's secret (NRSV)
- 25:16-17** If you find honey, eat just enough – too much of it, and you will vomit.
Seldom set foot in your neighbour's house – too much of you, and they will hate you.
- 25:20** Like one who takes away a garment on a cold day, or like vinegar poured on soda, is one who sings songs to a heavy heart.
- 26:18-19** Like a maniac shooting flaming arrows of death is one who deceives their neighbour and says, "I was only joking!"
- 27:5-6** Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.
- 27:9** Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice.
- 27:14** If anyone loudly blesses their neighbour early in the morning, it will be taken as a curse.
- 27:17** As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.
- 28:13** Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.